

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez and esteemed members of the Education Committee:

My name is Kate Conetta and I am from Danbury, CT.

I'm writing to you in support of HB #5285, An Act Concerning the Public School Curriculum.

It has long been the goal of education to ensure that we raise successive generations of citizens to be equipped with the knowledge they need to carry our world forward.

I cannot think of two more important categories than financial literacy and civic education.

Financial literacy offers students a window into how they can meaningfully interact with and plan for their responsibilities as adults. Teaching those skills to students offers social equity – it does not matter what social or economic strata you are born into, you can find a way to be successful if you understand how your management of finances contributes to your position in the world. It offers opportunity, which is a truly American value.

Civic education is critical as well. This is the part of education which helps us raise informed citizens who know how to protect their rights and how to engage with the system to effect change. When you look around at your colleagues, whether you agree with their viewpoints or not, you hope they will treat the process and you with respect, and work towards a better world for all. Building that civic education should be an integral part of public school education, as it will ultimately pave the way for future legislators and legislation, at the local, state and federal levels.

Equally critical is to give students an honest and scientific approach to understanding the world, via climate change instruction. We cannot prepare for the future or resolve environmental issues without a clear and evidenced picture of the world we live in.

All three of these areas of study represent critical components of education. And while one hopes that parents will shoulder some of the responsibility of building these skills in their children, one also is aware that not every student has parents who will do so. Our public schools are here to benefit not only students and families, but to benefit the community at large. We must ensure an educated population, and we must make financial literacy, climate change and civics education priorities.

I urge you to support HB #5285 towards these ends.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,

Kate Conetta
Danbury, CT